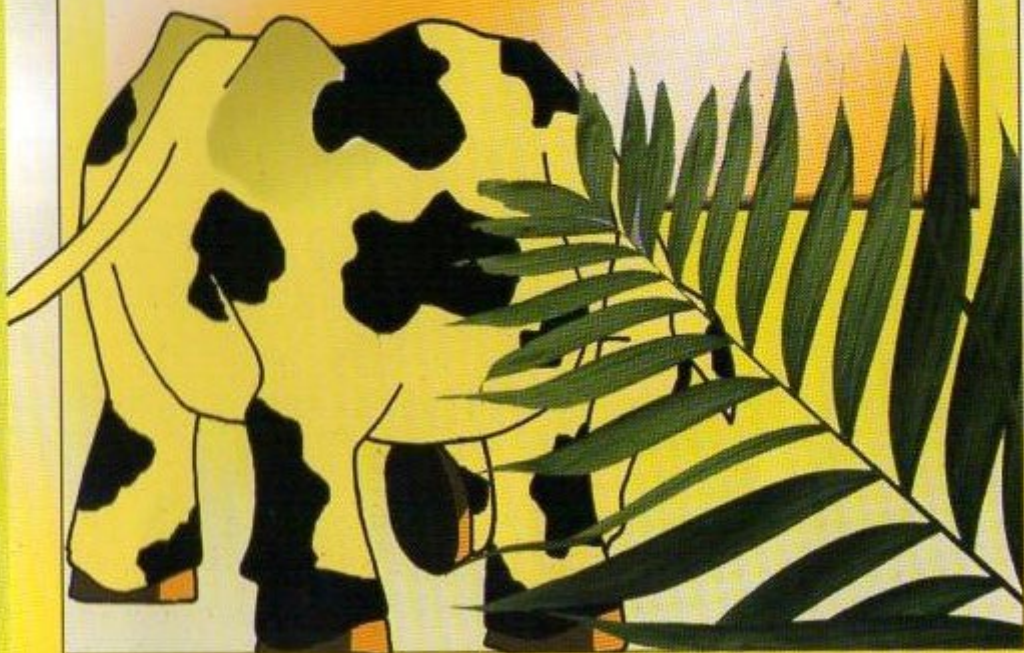


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10

The Golden Cow



Fantastic children stories
for teaching Islamic and moral values.

Written by: Maulana Ahmed Ali - Illustrations by: Shiraz Zaman

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Credits & Acknowledgments

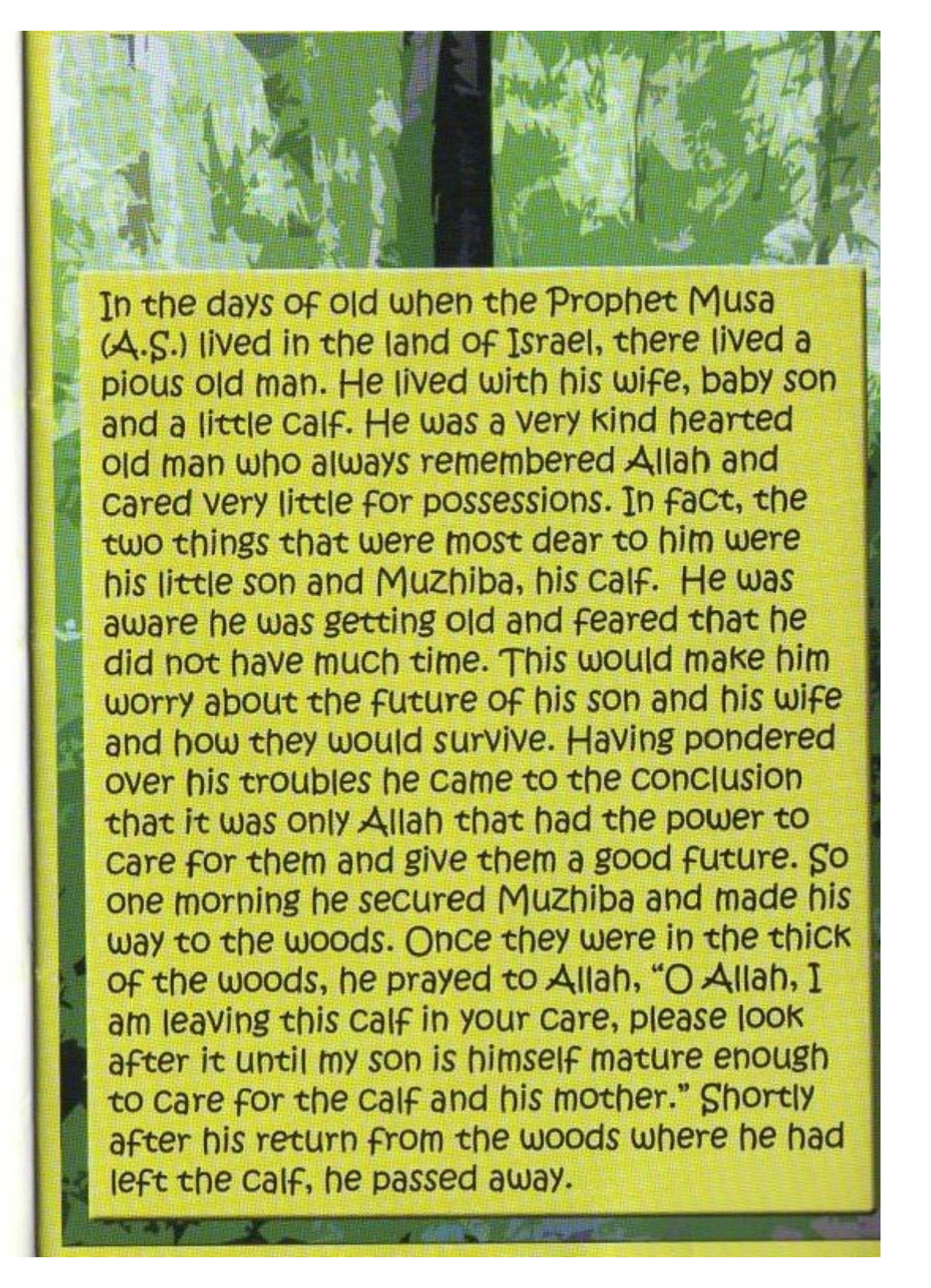
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Ahmed Ali

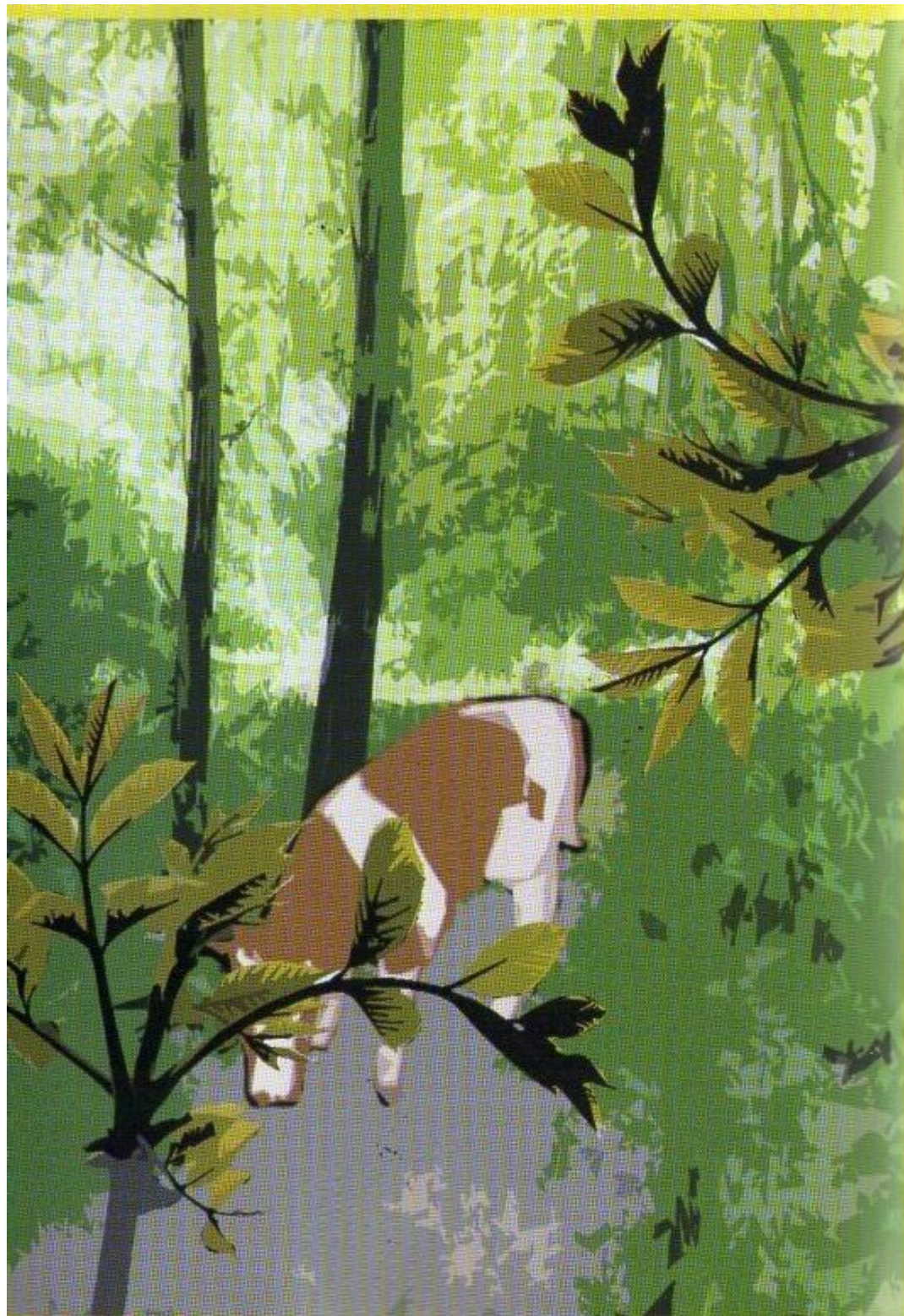
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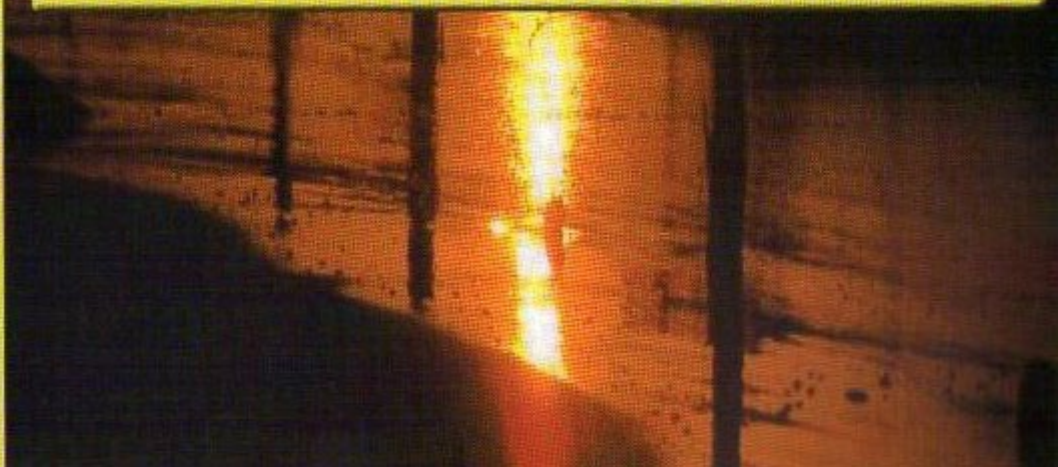
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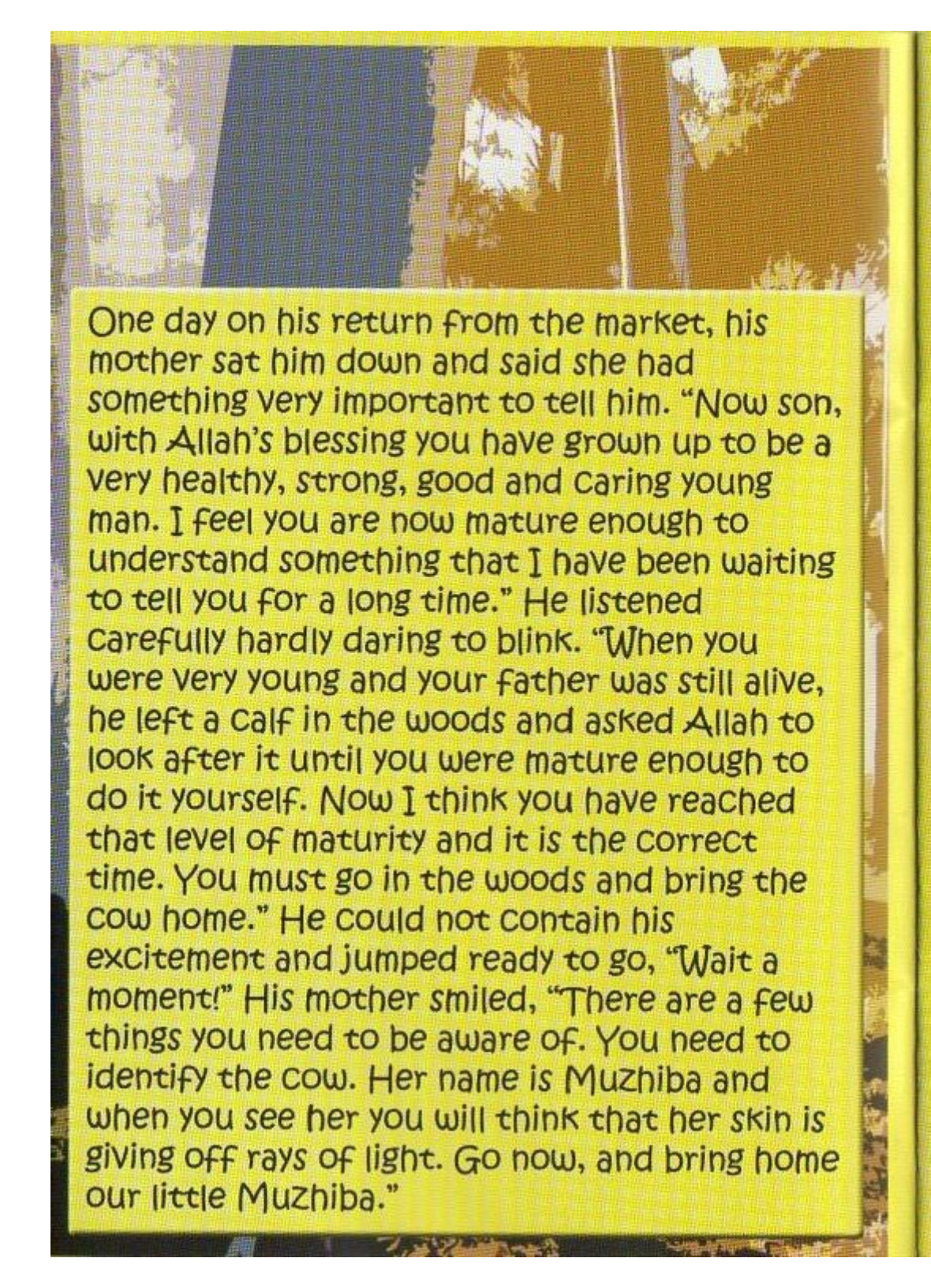


In the days of old when the Prophet Musa (A.S.) lived in the land of Israel, there lived a pious old man. He lived with his wife, baby son and a little calf. He was a very kind hearted old man who always remembered Allah and cared very little for possessions. In fact, the two things that were most dear to him were his little son and Muzhiba, his calf. He was aware he was getting old and feared that he did not have much time. This would make him worry about the future of his son and his wife and how they would survive. Having pondered over his troubles he came to the conclusion that it was only Allah that had the power to care for them and give them a good future. So one morning he secured Muzhiba and made his way to the woods. Once they were in the thick of the woods, he prayed to Allah, "O Allah, I am leaving this calf in your care, please look after it until my son is himself mature enough to care for the calf and his mother." Shortly after his return from the woods where he had left the calf, he passed away.



Allah took care of little Muzhiba and the boy. As the days passed, both grew to be healthy and strong. The boy grew up to be very good and caring just as his father had been. He loved Allah and his mother. His mother began to rely on him a lot in her old age, so much that he would divide the night into three parts. For the first part of the night he would look after his mother and take care of all her needs until she was happy. Then in the second part of the night he would take some rest and get a little sleep. For the third and final part of the night he would praise Allah and pray to him until the sun rose in the morning. Once the sun had risen, he would cut wood and sell it in the market and whatever money he earned he would divide it into three parts also. One third of his earnings he would give to the poor and one third he would give to his mother and the remaining third he would keep for himself.



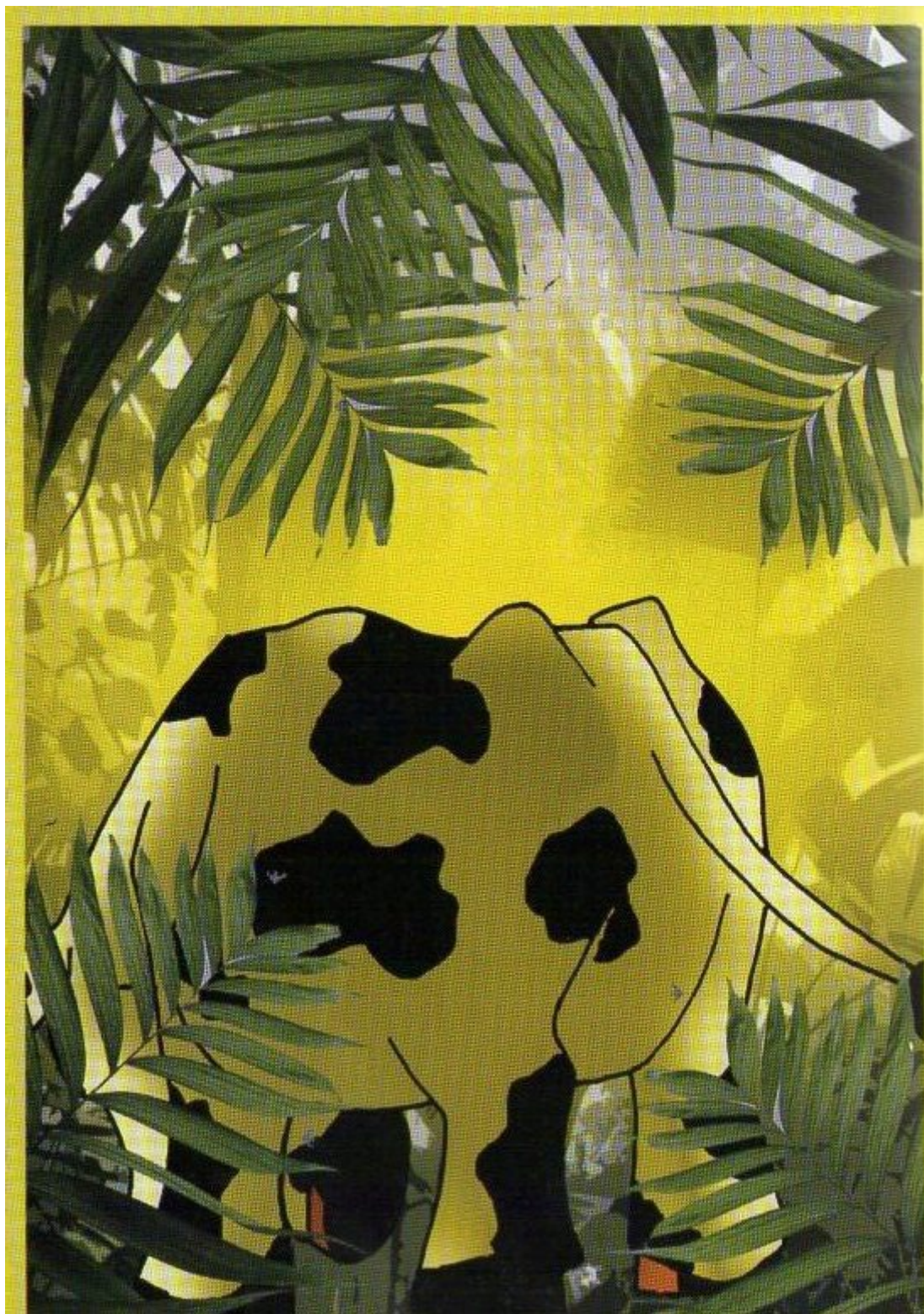


One day on his return from the market, his mother sat him down and said she had something very important to tell him. "Now son, with Allah's blessing you have grown up to be a very healthy, strong, good and caring young man. I feel you are now mature enough to understand something that I have been waiting to tell you for a long time." He listened carefully hardly daring to blink. "When you were very young and your father was still alive, he left a calf in the woods and asked Allah to look after it until you were mature enough to do it yourself. Now I think you have reached that level of maturity and it is the correct time. You must go in the woods and bring the cow home." He could not contain his excitement and jumped ready to go, "Wait a moment!" His mother smiled, "There are a few things you need to be aware of. You need to identify the cow. Her name is Muzhiba and when you see her you will think that her skin is giving off rays of light. Go now, and bring home our little Muzhiba."

He made his way hurriedly to the woods and searched for the cow. It was not long before he saw a cow, the likes of which he had never seen before, grazing in the distance. He stared in amazement. This cow was truly a sight to behold, its skin beamed in the way words could not describe. He knew this was the cow his mother had described, this was Muzhiba. He did not want to disturb the cow so he walked across to it gently, taking a few paces at a time, in order not to frighten the heavenly animal. Muzhiba saw him getting closer but was not frightened or unsettled in the least. He took hold of Muzabiha's ear and carefully took her home. His mother was relieved that he had not returned empty handed and upon seeing the cow, she was overcome with delight, "Muzhiba!" She exclaimed, her eyes filled with tears, "How beautiful you have become! It is truly the light of Allah that shines from your coat so magnificently." Once the initial excitement had calmed down, they had to think of Muzhiba's welfare. After thinking long and hard his mother said, "We are very poor, you cut wood all day and I haven't the strength to see to her properly. I want you to go to the Market and sell her."

"How much should I sell her for?" He asked.

"A cow such as Muzhiba is worth at least three gold coins, but make certain to consult me before the sale is complete." So he made his way to the market hoping to return with some good news.



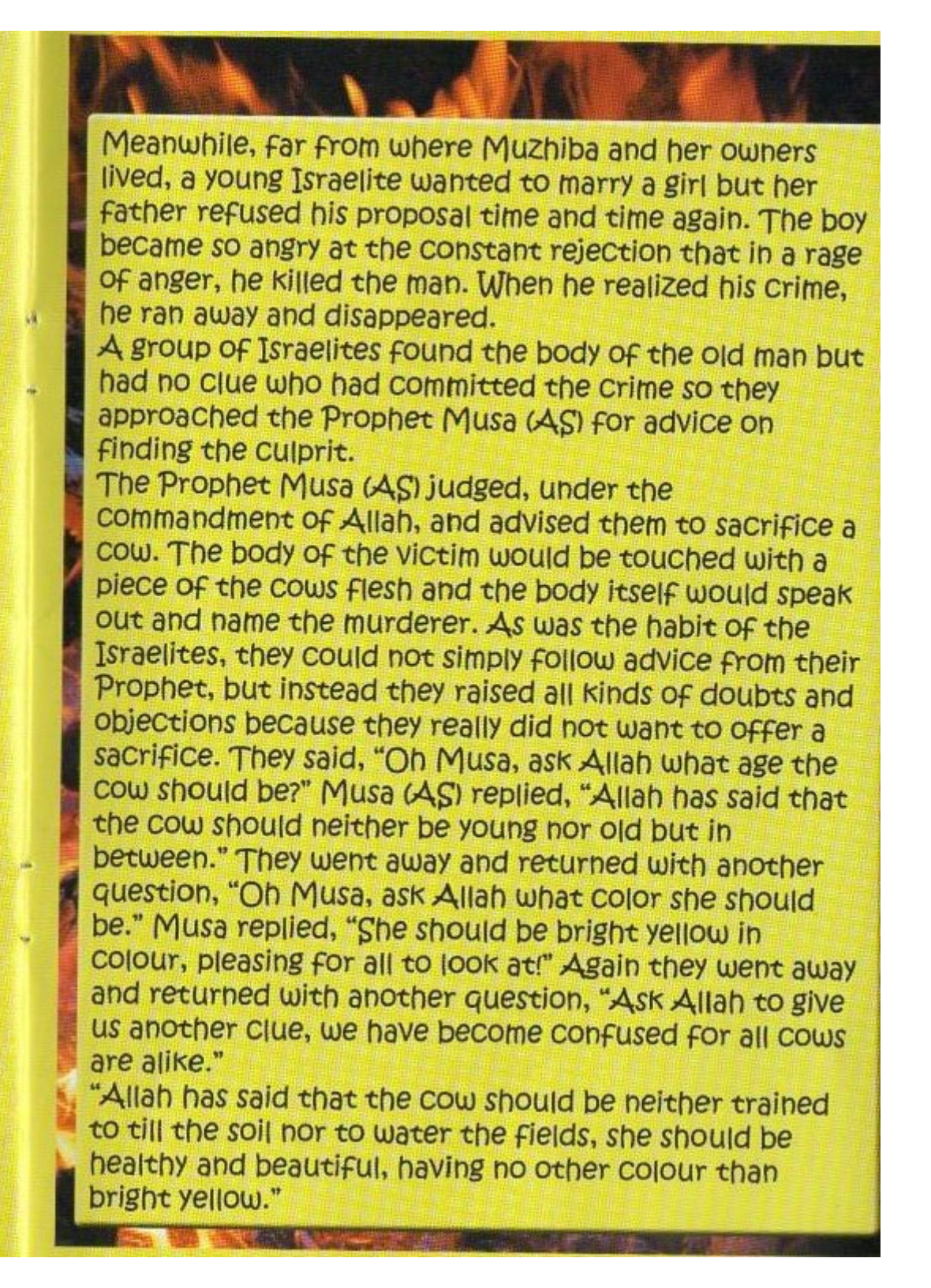
Allah, the Wise, decided to test him by questioning his obedience to his mother.

An angel, disguised as a man, was sent down to the boy to test whether or not he would do exactly as his mother had requested. The angel walked up to the boy and said, "I wish to purchase your cow, what price do you want for her?"

"I will sell her for three gold coins, but only if my mother agrees," replied the boy. The man then smiled and said "If you don't consult your mother, I will give you not three but six gold coins!" The boy did not hesitate to answer, "I don't care if you give me Muzhiba's weight in gold, I will not sell her without my mother's consent." The man walked away and feeling a little unsettled, the boy made his way home and told his mother that a man in the market was willing to buy Muzhiba for six gold coins. "In that case, sell her for six gold coins, but not before consulting me," replied his mother. He made his way to the market for the second time hoping to see the same man again. To his surprise, the very same man approached him and said, "Have you consulted your mother, what did she say?"

"Yes I have consulted her and she has asked me to take no less than six gold coins for Muzhiba," he replied awaiting a response. The man smiled, "I will give you not six but twelve gold coins if you sell the cow to me without consulting your mother!" Again the boy declined the offer and returned home to tell his mother of the unusual incident. His mother listened attentively and smiled, "My dear son, this was no man, it was an angel sent by Allah to test you and your obedience to me. If you see him again consult him before selling the cow." The boy returned to the market for the third time, waiting to meet the same man. It was not long before they met again and the boy, remembering his mother's request, asked the angel whether or not he should sell the cow. The angel advised him not to sell her yet but to wait a while for the cow would sell for a much higher price after a time. The boy waited patiently for the correct time to sell his prized possession.



The background of the page is a close-up photograph of bright orange and yellow flames, likely from a fire, which are slightly out of focus, creating a dramatic and intense atmosphere.

Meanwhile, far from where Muzhiba and her owners lived, a young Israelite wanted to marry a girl but her father refused his proposal time and time again. The boy became so angry at the constant rejection that in a rage of anger, he killed the man. When he realized his crime, he ran away and disappeared.

A group of Israelites found the body of the old man but had no clue who had committed the crime so they approached the Prophet Musa (AS) for advice on finding the culprit.

The Prophet Musa (AS) judged, under the commandment of Allah, and advised them to sacrifice a cow. The body of the victim would be touched with a piece of the cows flesh and the body itself would speak out and name the murderer. As was the habit of the Israelites, they could not simply follow advice from their Prophet, but instead they raised all kinds of doubts and objections because they really did not want to offer a sacrifice. They said, "Oh Musa, ask Allah what age the cow should be?" Musa (AS) replied, "Allah has said that the cow should neither be young nor old but in between." They went away and returned with another question, "Oh Musa, ask Allah what color she should be." Musa replied, "She should be bright yellow in colour, pleasing for all to look at!" Again they went away and returned with another question, "Ask Allah to give us another clue, we have become confused for all cows are alike."

"Allah has said that the cow should be neither trained to till the soil nor to water the fields, she should be healthy and beautiful, having no other colour than bright yellow."



Hesitantly they left to look for the cow but they did not have good intentions in their hearts and this displeased Allah so he made it very difficult for them to find the right cow. The Israelites looked far and wide for the special cow, but a cow fitting that description had never been seen before, "A cow neither young nor old, but of medium age and bright yellow in colour" they thought, "Where will we find such an exceptional animal?" They had been to every field and every farm but had not come across a cow fitting the description. Surely, they would have given up the search but they knew that the murderer would never be found without the cow so they persevered. The days passed and the search continued, they had lost all hope of sighting the animal that had been described to them and wandered through a strange market place aimlessly dragging their feet. They could not contain their fatigue and disappointment when all of a sudden, "Look! Look! Over there!" Forgetting all about their plans in a moment of excitement, they all ran over to where Muzhiba was stood with her owner.

They could not believe their eyes and walked around her and touched her to make sure she wasn't an illusion. They questioned the boy about her age and whether or not she had been trained to work. Muzhiba met all the conditions that Prophet Musa (AS) had set them and they pleaded with the boy to sell them the cow. The boy realized the Israelites were willing to pay a very high price and this was the sale that the angel had advised him to wait for. They purchased the cow for as much gold as would fill her skin, a price that did not compare to three, six or even twelve gold coins! The Israelites were pleased with the cow and the boy and his mother was pleased with the sale.

Verily Allah Is pleased with those who obey their parents and those who persevere patiently. When Allah is pleased with someone he fills their lives with more blessings than they can ever imagine.



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